(6) Coupe sales should be stopped once for all. Timber should never be sold except from depots.

(7) Auction sales of timber in depots should be conducted only in Edavom and Mithunam, after meeting the demands of the Government departments and the people for timber.

(8) The property marks of the relations of the supplying contractors of the Forest Department should not be registered and such persons should not be permitted to carry on trade in timber. Property marks of timber merchants in towns alone should be registered.

(9) Better arrangements should be made for the capture of elephants and the collection of minor forest produce.

(10) The check-measurements of logs in depots should be made at least 10 days before the auction sale of the same.

(11) The export of timber should be prohibited till the present famine conditions disappeared.

Dewan's reply.—The representation of the Member will receive due consideration. The Member will do well to see the Conservator and explain to him in detail all that he said.

20. Desirability of dispensing with the present system of issuing free passes by the Forest Department for the removal of junglewood from registered lands.

Mr. K. Sankara Iyer (Member, Todupuzha taluk) submitted that the holders of registered lands had full rights of ownership on junglewood trees standing thereon, since they had paid for the same at the time of registry and that the restrictions placed on the removal of such trees over which they had complete control were not justifiable. On receipt of applications for the grant of free passes for the removal of such timber, the trees then found on the land were checked with the list of trees for which *thadivila* had been paid. If differences were observed, passes were not easily granted, though it had been clearly laid down in G. O. No. 2055 L. R., dated the 17th February 1914, that the registry-holder was not liable for such differences. It had also been ordered that, at the time of issuing free passes, Divisional Forest Officers need not ascertain the actual *thadivila* paid for at the time of registry of the lands. Government had been held liable for the loss incurred by the registry-holders on account of the delay in getting free passes (*Vide* 5 T. L. J. 153). The rules on the subject also required that passes should be issued within 15 days from the date of receipt in the Divisional Offices of the Forest Ranger's report on the application for passes. In spite of all the above clear orders of Government and the rulings of the High Court, passes were being issued according to the whims and fancies of the Divisional Forest Officers. The people were put to much hardship and loss thereby. Further, the insistence of the production of certificates from village officers and also of sketches of the lands mentioned in the application for passes caused immense hardship to the people and much unnecessary delay in the disposal of applications for passes. Thus, the obstacles in the way of getting free passes at the proper time were numerous and they contributed to enormous delays. The Member, therefore, requested that the system of granting free passes for the removal of junglewood logs from registered lands be done away with.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

21. Desirability of throwing open reserves for the extension of cultivation with a view to meet the increasing demand for paddy.

Mr. M. Thomman (Member, Peermade taluk) described the present economic distress brought on by war conditions and suggested that articles of food stuff required for the people of the State should be cultivated within the State itself. The action of the Government in getting down the necessary supplies from foreign places was really praiseworthy, but it was doubtful whether Government would be able to

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